

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An anti-theft tag, further comprising:

a detacher arm chamber;

a detacher arm entry area providing an access path from the external surface of the anti-theft tag to the detacher arm chamber;

a clip, located in the detacher arm chamber, and sized to securely grasp a securing member pin;

a locking arm, the locking arm located within the detacher arm chamber and extending at least partially out of the detacher arm chamber and into the detacher arm entry path such that it obstructs entry to the detacher arm chamber, the locking arm further having a locked position, and an unlocked position;

a spring to hold the locking arm in the locked position when a detacher arm is not inserted into the anti-theft tag;

a door button having an open position which allows entry of the detacher arm into the detacher arm chamber, and a closed position which blocks entry to the detacher arm chamber, the door remaining closed when a pick is inserted such that the pick is guided away from the detacher arm chamber, and further having the ability to move to the open position under pressure from a detacher arm when the detacher arm is inserted into the anti-theft tag;

whereby the ~~locking arm~~ door button prevents a pick from entering the detacher arm chamber, by guiding it away from the detacher arm chamber.

Please add the following new claims:

2. (New) An anti-theft tag, as in claim 1, wherein the door button is pivotable.
3. (New) An anti-theft tag, as in claim 2, wherein the door button further comprises a spring mechanism which biases the door button to the closed position when the detacher arm is not present, and which will be opened by yielding to pressure from the detacher arm when it is inserted into the anti-theft tag.
4. (New) An anti-theft tag, as in claim 1, further comprising a dead-end cavity which provides a path for a pick which is guided away from the detacher arm chamber by the door button.
5. (New) An anti-theft tag, as in claim 3, further comprising a dead-end cavity which provides a path for a pick which is guided away from the detacher arm chamber by the door button.
6. (New) A method of preventing anti-theft tags from being picked, including the steps of:

isolating the lock in the anti-tag in a detacher arm chamber;

preventing access to the detacher arm chamber with a door which is normally in a closed position;

opening the door to the detacher arm chamber by applying pressure from the detacher arm;

opening the lock with the detacher arm once it has passed the door and entered the detacher arm chamber;

using the door to guide a pick away from the detacher arm chamber such that the pick slides past the detacher arm chamber;

whereby the door to the detacher arm chamber prevents a pick from entering the detacher arm chamber by guiding it away from the entrance to the detacher arm chamber.

7. (New) A method, as in claim 6, including the additional step of pivotably attaching the door to the anti-theft tag.
8. (New) A method, as in claim 7, including the additional step of using spring tension to maintain the door in the closed position.
9. (New) A method, as in claim 8, including the additional step of overcoming the spring tension, under pressure from the detacher arm, to open the door when a detacher arm is inserted.
10. (New) A method, as in claim 6, including the additional step of guiding a pick to a dead-end cavity when it is guided away from the detacher arm chamber by the door button.
11. (New) A method of preventing anti-theft tags from being picked, including the steps of:

isolating the lock in the anti-tag in a detacher arm chamber;

preventing unauthorized access to the detacher arm chamber by sealing entrance to the detacher arm chamber with a door that is normally in a closed position such that an unauthorized pick slides past the entrance to the detacher arm chamber.

12. (New) A method, as in claim 11, including the additional step of pivotably attaching the door to the anti-theft tag.

13. (New) A method, as in claim 12, including the additional step of using spring tension to maintain the door in the closed position.
14. (New) A method, as in claim 13, including the additional step of overcoming the spring tension to open the door when a detacher arm is inserted.
15. (New) A method, as in claim 11, including the additional step of directing a pick to a dead-end cavity when it is guided away from the detacher arm chamber by the door button.